TheHighlander

Thursday **July 23 2026** | Issue 749

INSIDE: REMEMBERING LOST LODGES PAGE 13

FREE

Teeing up for charity

Matt Duchene, Ryan Bottum, Alex Monk-Cray and Keaton Gadway pose for a photo before teeing off on the first hole at the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic July 17. See more coverage on page 11. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

No timeline for LifeLabs reopening

By Mike Baker

After recently spending three hours waiting for a routine bloodwork appointment at the LifeLabs location in Minden, 83-year-old Mary Hodgins believes the private company should bring a mobile unit to the Highlands to replace its temporarily shuttered Haliburton office.

The Haliburton Lake resident attended the site, located inside the Minden Health Hub at 6 McPherson St., with her daughter July 7. Hodgins said she's been getting regular tests done in Haliburton for the past four years, with appointments usually done within about 20 minutes.

It's been a different story for her – and many others – in Minden, though.

"When we arrived, nobody advised you what to do. Other patients waiting told us we had to take a number – we then sat there for half-an-hour before talking to a nurse and figuring out what the routine was," Hodgins said. "Long and short, we waited three hours.

"We weren't the only ones… there was a man who arrived at 8:30 a.m. and he brought his lunch with him just in case. He was called in at 11:30 a.m. Many people waiting with me that morning said they usually used the Haliburton lab," Hodgins added.

LifeLabs closed its office at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre March 25 after Dysart brought a consultant in to investigate

Continued **'Temporary'** on page 2

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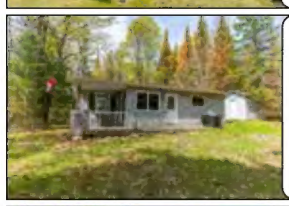

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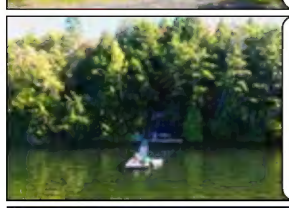

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Temporary trailer not planned

Continued from page 1

air quality concerns. Peterborough-based firm Pinchin Ltd. found limited ventilation to some units within the building and elevated carbon dioxide levels.

Dysart CAO Tamara Wilbee told *The Highlander* last week the township spent around $26,000 fixing the issue earlier this summer, with work done by Walker's Heating and Cooling, She said there are plans to excavate the ground on three sides of the building in the fall to re-waterproof it. At an April council meeting, Wilbee said pooling groundwater, which has entered the rear of the building before, was likely contributing to the bad odour.

In a July 15 email, a LifeLabs spokesperson said the odour issue has yet to be fully rectified and the site would remain closed, with no timeline for reopening.

"Investigation and testing have confirmed there is no mould or gas leak concerns. We are actively working with the municipality and its consultants to better understand the issue and assess potential options to support a return to operations as soon as reasonably possible," the spokesperson said.

To address the Haliburton closure, LifeLabs said staff have been redeployed to the Minden site. Hours have also been extended, with services available from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. – an extra two-hours-and-45-minutes daily.

Hodgins said she only saw three staff, including two nurses and a receptionist working for Haliburton Highlands Health Services, the whole time she was there.

"They were overwhelmed… the staff are doing what they can do, but they need help," Hodgins said, suggesting a mobile unit for Haliburton.

LifeLabs did not respond to a question from *The Highlander* asking if the company had a protocol for office closures in rural communities, or if it would consider bringing a temporary medical trailer. Wilbee, though, said no application has been submitted to the township.

"There has been no further discussion about a trailer. The goal is to get them back into their space inside the building," Wilbee said.

Testing moving south

In July 2024, it was announced that U.S.-based Quest Diagnostics was purchasing LifeLabs for approximately $1.35 billion. Since then, the company revealed plans to close a Sudbury lab and processing facility – later changed to a partial closure, with some services remaining – and, from January to March, cancelled afternoon hours at the Kenora lab collection centre.

Last month, the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) went public with LifeLabs' plans to move non-routine lab test analysis currently being done in Ontario hospitals to the U.S. In March, the company informed Ontario hospitals they won't be used as an alternate for procedures LifeLabs locations cannot complete. Instead, the work will go to Quest locations in the U.S.

OHC executive director, Natalie Mehra, and board chair, Ross Sutherland, wrote an open letter to health minister

Haliburton residents have been going to LifeLabs Minden for months. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Sylvia Jones in June calling on the government to step in.

"For decades, these reference laboratory tests have been performed in Ontario's hospitals. Shifting them to the U.S. raises serious patient privacy and specimen quality concerns, delays results, harms the efficiency and independence of Ontario's medical laboratory system, transfers more Ontario health care dollars to the U.S. and reduces income to our hospitals," they said.

Mehra and Sutherland said some transfers have already taken place, with Quest planning a three-phase process beginning in April. This won't impact routine samples collected at LifeLabs locations.

"In our view, these actions demonstrate a lack of concern about delivering high-quality medical laboratory services in Ontario," the pair said, calling on the Ontario government to cancel its contract with Quest and restore all outpatient lab testing to the control of public hospitals.

"Transferring the community laboratory work to the hospitals will make a more integrated health system and ensure public – and Canadian domestic – control over these vital services," Mehra and Sutherland wrote.

On its website, LifeLabs claims to see more than 15 million patients and perform over 112 million laboratory tests in Canada annually.

With another appointment coming up next month, Hodgins is hoping for a better experience.

"I have a health issue that needs monitoring, so will be back again," Hodgins said. "We will see if there is any change."

No AI slop

4Cs tackles demand with Christmas in July

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Haliburton County residents continue to face food insecurity, the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank and Lily Ann are feeling the crisis firsthand.

Food bank usage in the County is up a staggering 27 per cent, according to the non-profit. Food costs alone for May 2026 hit nearly $40,000, and with demand outpacing donations in the summer months, the charity launched a "Christmas in July" fundraiser to help meet its needs.

Louise Ewing, chair of the 4Cs board, explained to *The Highlander* that with the current economic reality, the food bank is seeing an average of four-to-five new families registering every month. While she acknowledged that demographics play a role, Ewing noted that Haliburton is the second-poorest County in the province, behind Manitoulin Island, with employed residents being pushed to the food bank.

"We have families that have two working people and still can't afford to buy their food," she said. "You might have two or three jobs at minimum wage or cash in your pocket that just don't provide enough to pay your bills, keep a roof over your head, and feed your family well."

While families are seeking assistance, Ewing said people who are single make up the largest demographic using the food bank. To break down the numbers further, she said the County's youth, those who are 12 to 18 years old, receive the least number of donated items, especially around the holidays.

To put that into perspective, the chair of the board explained how a high school teacher reached out to the 4Cs about teenagers who were skipping meals so their younger siblings at home could eat. So the charity had spent the last few months delivering food directly to the high school.

To help fill this gap, the 4Cs is asking for specific donations tailored to teens: pajamas, socks, personal hygiene products, and $10 or $20 gift cards to local restaurants or grocery stores.

The 4Cs relies heavily on its Lily Ann Thrift Store to fund its operations. Ewing said that while the community is remarkably generous during the winter months, it's the summertime when cash donations typically dry up.

"We've never had to fundraise before in all the years," Ewing said. "In the 40 or more years that the 4Cs have been operating, we've never thought, 'well, maybe we should fundraise and see if we can just help a bit.'"

So far, the response to the summer campaign has been "underwhelming," Ewing said, adding she hopes the community will rally in the final week of July to help them prepare for a difficult winter ahead.

Shoppers browse items at the Lily Ann Thrift Store in Haliburton on July 21. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

"We can't be ostriches and hide our heads," She said. "It exists... people in our own County are hungry."

You can support the 4Cs by donating cash, gift cards, or unwrapped toys at CanoeFM or the Lily Ann Thrift Store. E-transfers can be sent to 4csfoodbank@gmail.com, and non-perishable food can be donated at the two grocery stores in Haliburton.

Chronic diseases to double in Lakelands in next 15 years

By Mike Baker

The region's medical officer of health is calling on the Ontario government to revisit its funding formula for public health agencies ahead of the 2027-28 fiscal year.

Dr. Thomas Piggott told Lakelands Public Health's (LPH) board of directors recently that, since 2016, public health has only received an accumulative six per cent increase in funding, which is about 22 per cent less than inflation over that time.

"That means we have almost a quarter less capacity today than we did 10 years ago, when funding increases would just about sustain programming. We've been living in a context of austerity funding measures for over a decade," Piggott said.

Its 2026-27 budget came in at just over $11.2 million, up 3.7 per cent from the previous year. The province kicked in around $7.6 million, while also supplying $9 million in one-time funding as part of the agreement to merge the previous Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit and Peterborough Public Health.

Responsible for disease prevention, managing health crises and enforcing public health and safety standards in businesses such as restaurants.

Piggott said entities like LPH play a key role in keeping communities safe.

He pointed to increases handed out to other related sectors, with hospitals routinely seeing annual budget hikes between four and six per cent, as an example of what he wants to see filtering through to public health.

"Public health is an investment and will continue to prevent some chronic disease challenges we'll be faced with in the province over the next couple of decades… we can help with the government's priority of reducing strain on the health care system," Piggott said.

Board chair Ron Black said, usually, the funding formula for public health agencies is 75 per cent provincial and 25 per cent municipal. Right now, LPH is getting 68 per cent of its money from the Ontario government and 32 per cent from lower-tiers.

Piggott said data suggests things are likely to become more strained before they get better. Statistics from Public Health Ontario identifies the Lakelands region, which includes Haliburton, Peterborough and Northumberland counties and Kawartha Lakes, as having the highest proportion of seniors' population-wise in the province.

"We're projected to see a doubling in the rate of chronic disease needs over the next 15 years… we need to have conversations about long-term sustainable increases to public health," Piggott said.

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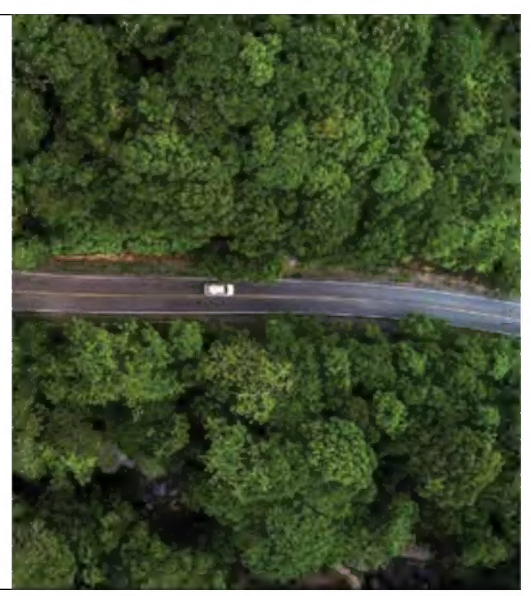

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Hi

It's nicer here.

Memphis, back at Camp Keewaydin, packing for his next trip. *Submitted.*

'Heart-wrenching' few days for teen near fires

By Lisa Gervais

There were a few stressful days last week for Carnarvon resident, Kim Switzer, as her son, Memphis, had to be evacuated from northern Ontario fires while on a canoe trip with Keewaydin Camp in Temagami.

"It was a long, three days of torture," Switzer told *The Highlander* Tuesday (July 21).

Switzer said Memphis was near Wabakimi Provincial Park July 15 when parents received an email from the camp saying rescue crews were planning to evacuate the youth because the area they were in was not safe due to the fires.

Switzer was on tenterhooks, hopeful they could all get out safely to checkpoints and then back to Temagami.

The next morning, July 16, she was crossing her fingers that Memphis would be air evacuated as he was on an island with the other boys, waiting to get out.

She described July 17 as "a long, hard emotional day." She said she got no sleep "knowing my boy was out there on an island waiting to be evacuated from the growing fires. I got up that morning waiting with worry and got news that there were new fires and changes of plans and no planes going to get them. They were to paddle to the railroad tracks and get on a train to then meet the OPP to get on a bus and head to Sioux Lookout."

Later that day, she said the kids made the train to Sioux Lookout and were headed back to Temagami. While she was waiting for updates, she said she was breathing easier knowing Memphis was not stranded on an island.

"I knew Memphis was in good hands with well-trained staff, but as a mom you can't help but worry," Switzer said.

"Hats off to all the amazing, highly-skilled and trained Keewaydin staff, emergency crews, firefighters, police, CN workers etc. who got all the kids back home to camp. I am forever thankful."

Switzer said she loves Memphis "to bits. He is my world and I don't know what I'd do if something happened to him. So, I am relieved that they are out of harm's way and will have amazing stories to share."

> *"I don't care if he's 14, I am going to hug him until I am done."*
>
> ***Kim Switzer***

On Sunday (July 19), Switzer knew for certain that Memphis had made it back to Camp Keewaydin because another parent sent her a photograph of him. She added he was packing for a three-week trip elsewhere to finish off the camping season.

"I am so relieved. What a heart-wrenching few days. But I am so happy they are still going to get right back out tripping. It's really hard as a mom not to worry about your boy, but as an outdoor enthusiast, I'm like 'hell ya, that's my boy, get out there and paddle more'.

She has yet to talk to Memphis, as the camp does not want participants using cell phones and promotes the place as somewhere "where kids become gutsy, courageous, self assured and learn to take risks."

But when she picks Memphis up Aug. 10, she said she'll be giving him a long hug. "I don't care if he's 14, I am going to hug him until I am done."

No tech bros

Highlander news

Community Living Trent Highlands worker Phylis Baker shows off some donated items. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Strikers support wildfire evacuees

By Mike Baker

As wildfires rage in northern Ontario, burning more than 3,500 sq. km. of bush and rural land to the north and west of Thunder Bay, people in Haliburton have been working hard this week gathering donations to help those most impacted.

Striking Community Living Trent Highlands employees launched a donation drive on Monday (July 20). County residents Phylis Baker and Michelle Cooper came up with the idea after seeing heartbreaking stories on the news about people who have lost everything.

"Some had to flee their homes with only the clothes on their back. It made us think how there are a lot of people with a lot worse problems than we have right now – and we really wanted to help," Baker told *The Highlander.*

Around 4,500 Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) workers are into their ninth week striking – including approximately 310 Community Living Trent Highlands employees. Baker said morale was starting to dip on the picket lines, but this week's efforts have reinvigorated many.

Baker said she doesn't know of any personal connections between local OPSEU members and those impacted in the Thunder Bay region, but that hasn't stopped all 35 County-based strikers from pitching in. Affiliated donations drives have also been held in Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes.

Living on Horseshoe Lake near Minden, Baker said she knows all too well how quickly things can spiral out of control when Mother Nature turns.

"We've gone through a lot here in Haliburton County with the flooding in Minden and the two ice storms. But this community is very giving. As soon as I put this out there, so many jumped on it. We've had so many items donated to us, it just fills our heart so much to see such an incredible response," Baker said.

OPSEU Local 358 president Jessica Bushey said key items needed in the north include diapers, baby wipes, baby bottles, toiletries, personal care items, feminine hygiene products, underwear, socks, non-perishable food, bottled water, new clothing and blankets, books, puzzles, games and toys.

Items can be dropped off at Rotary Park in Minden on Thursday (July 23) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at Head Lake Park in Haliburton on Friday (July 24) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Earlier in the week, workers were gathered in front of the Community Living Trent Highlands office space at 73 Victoria St. and on Maple Avenue near the bridge.

Bushey credited Baker and Cooper for inspiring the effort, saying it's been great to see people band together and do some good while struggling themselves.

"We believe in taking care of each other. When communities experience crisis, we show up because solidarity means standing together when people need support the most," Bushey said.

Baker said the effort will wrap this week as she wants to make sure people receive the items as soon as possible. She's coordinating delivery of all donations, with the Native Friendship Centre in Peterborough helping with logistics.

People can also donate cash via e-transfer, Baker said. To give, contact phylisbaker@hotmail.com.

Stanhope deploys firefighters

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry confirmed on Tuesday (July 21) that firefighters from its Stanhope location had been deployed north to help. Spokesperson Mike Fenn said workers are busy on the ground around the clock.

"Given the elevated wildfire situation and operational requirements, we are unable to accommodate an interview at this time," Fenn said.

As of Wednesday (July 22) afternoon, there were 146 active wildland fires burning in northwestern Ontario. Of those, 53 are considered out of control, six are being held, seven under control and 80 observed. Evacuation efforts are in effect for areas around Thunder Bay, Dryden and Fort Frances.

There are another 43 active blazes in the northeast region, near Wawa and Cochrane. Officials say five are under control, one is being held, five are not under control and the rest being observed.

More than a dozen communities have been forced to evacuate, including 10 First Nations, uprooting more than 2,400 people according to the CBC. People have been relocated to host communities across the province, including Barrie, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

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Highlander news

STR map to live online for those who opt in

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East council voted to allow short-term rental (STR) operators to opt out of the municipality's public tracking map, a sudden shift from staff recommendations.

The change in direction happened at the July 14 regular council meeting after a debate about a staff report on the municipality's STR webpage and Geographic Information System dashboard map.

Stacey Brown, STR licensing clerk and enforcement officer, presented to council her report that noted strong public interest, ranking the STR webpage as the 11th most visited page across the municipality's website with 2,181 total views since Sept. 16, 2025, with an average engagement time of one minute, topping the site average.

Staff urged council to keep the mandatory online dashboard, noting that residents use it to flag unlicensed operators. According to the report, staff said that privacy concerns from hosts represented "very small portions when compared to the broader public interest," and warned that removing the map would make Highlands East an outlier in Haliburton County.

But some council members said they had received pushback from owners who felt cornered by the mandatory rule.

"At this day now, we've got a choice. None. If you want to be a STR operator, it has to be on the map. It's the end of it. Case closed. No options," deputy mayor Cecil Ryall said during the meeting. "So in my opinion, I am against having only two options. If there was (an option) where you could volunteer, I would certainly support that."

Coun. Ruth Strong also asked for a third option, allowing for STR owners to decide whether to have their dwelling listed on the map.

Brown defended the map, adding that it is pretty much a standard requirement for a commercial operation.

"They're applying for, essentially, a business licence to operate," she told council. "At the end of the day, if they don't want their name on the map, they don't have to get a licence."

Faced with only the two staff recommendations, council decided to go their own path, creating the third option.

"I would definitely be for the opt-in and opt-out for an option," coun. Angela Lewis said.

Lewis moved to amend the resolution, which was seconded by Ryall.

Council adopted the new directive, which allows STR applicants to opt in or out of using the online map.

Highlands East is the first municipality in the County to make public mapping voluntary for licensed hosts.

Highlands East council voted to allow STR owners to opt out of being featured in an online map. *File*.

Arts Centre Foundation survey

The Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation (HHACF) – which is exploring the development of a new performing arts and cultural facility for Haliburton County – is seeking input from residents, seasonal residents, visitors, business owners, and community members.

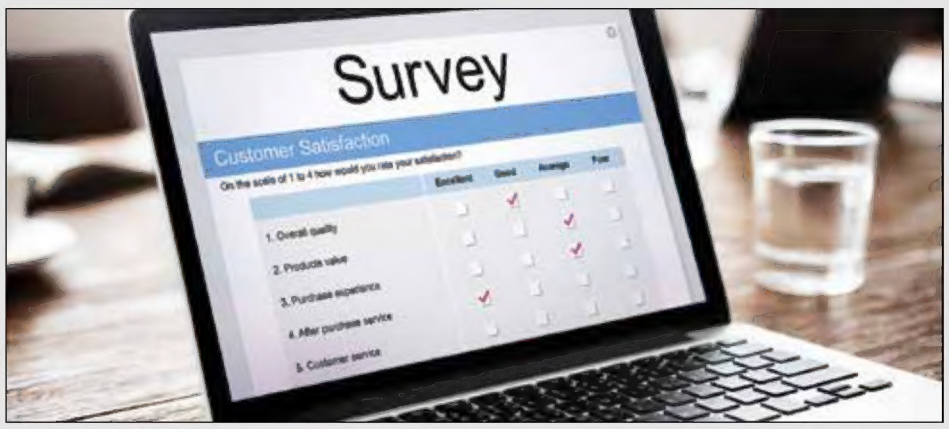
They said they want to better understand how people currently participate in arts and cultural activities, what opportunities they value most, and how a future arts centre could serve the community.

Feedback will help inform planning and business case development for the community initiative.

The survey takes approximately five to 10 minutes to complete.

All survey responses are being collected and managed confidentially by The Voima Group. Individual responses will not be shared with HHACF. Only aggregated survey findings and summary results will be provided to the foundation.

People can complete the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hhacfresident.



The foundation is inviting public feedback to help plan a future arts centre. *File*.

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Highlander news

Affordability, governance study on track

By Lisa Gervais

County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke in the new council chambers. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Following a meeting with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) last Thursday (July 16), County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke said the affordability and governance study is "right on schedule."

He said County staff should have a final draft of the EORN report by July 31 with the consultant scheduled to present to council at its Aug. 12 meeting.

Dyke said they will be inviting all local councils to attend that meeting in-person or virtually, so every elected official can receive the information at the same time.

The CAO said EORN has so far met all of its targets. Last week, they were focusing on feedback they had received from the public; along with continuing financial analysis.

"It's nice to put actual data to the question. It's just not about 'well, we like it the way it is.' That's fine, but this is what the numbers say."

Dyke said that will differentiate this work from the services delivery review. "There's going to be actual data, outlining 'this is what you do now, and this is what it will look like if you do this.' It will resonate well with people. If nothing else, at least they have the information."

The CAO noted the study will be released publicly with the agenda package for the Aug. 12 meeting.

He said he would be looking for direction from council to allow him to do more analysis on the identified options that EORN will present.

The County is also planning to hold four town hall meetings – in each of Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills – after the study is out, and people have had an opportunity to read it.

"Then the public can ask questions of EORN, and myself, about the study. That may happen in late August."

After that, he said his goal is to create orientation packages for the new council for mid-December, "and our target is to bring the study back to the new council Jan. 13 for discussion."

Dyke added, "the province is interested in what's going on with our study. So are some other municipalities across the province. We're getting a lot of compliments on our process. It's moving well and I think people will be satisfied with what's come out of the study."

Renovations

County council met for the first time Wednesday (July 22) in its new council chambers at 12 Newcastle St. in Minden.

Dyke said interior work in the former Land Registry Office wrapped up last week, with the parking lot being paved this week. While there are still some exterior modifications to be done, Dyke anticipated the retrofit would be complete by the end of July or the first week of August.

Meanwhile, Perfectly Built Inc. continues the job across the road at 11 Newcastle St., which used to house council chambers.

Dyke said last week, "the third floor is done now; where the old council chambers used to be, and they're working on the second floor. We hope to have that building completely done by Labour Day."

The CAO added they won't host an official opening until all of the landscaping is finalized, which will likely be in September.

Last August, County council approved the $2.5 million project, borrowing the bulk of the money.

Dyke said the renovations at 12 Newcastle St. were a couple of months behind schedule; but they are on-schedule for the completion of the retrofit for 11 Newcastle St.

He said he would meet with public works director, Syl Cloutier, this week to go over the project budget and will provide a report to council in August.

Editorial opinion

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To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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No opting out

By Lisa Gervais

I think Highlands East council blew it last week with a change to its short-term rental map.

Shortly after implementing STR licensing, Haliburton County municipalities adopted interactive GIS dashboards to map them.

These maps publicly display the location, address, and in some cases, the contact details of permitted cottage rentals. Highlands East erred on the side of caution, having a dashboard that only has an address and licence number.

Last week, though, council - largely driven by deputy mayor Cec Ryall and councillors Ruth Strong and Angela Lewis - voted to allow STR operators to opt out of the public tracking map.

By doing so, they went against a staff recommendation. And why not? After all, municipal councillors know more than their highly-educated staff, don't they? Insert sarcasm here.

STR licensing clerk and enforcement officer, Stacey Brown, said there was strong public interest in the dashboard. It was the 11th most visited page on the website, with 2,181 views since Sept. 16, 2025. Folks are averaging engagement time of one minute, topping the site average.

Brown encouraged council to keep the dashboard, since residents use it to flag unlicensed operators.

She added that privacy concerns from hosts represented a very small portion when compared to the broader public interest. And, there has been no evidence that thieves are targeting these STRs.

However, some STR owners have gotten into some councillors' ears. Hence, the suggestion people can opt into the map, rather than it being mandatory.

And, yet, under The Municipal Act, townships are allowed to post licence details on their websites. Many cottage country municipalities, such as Tiny Township, Huntsville, Ramara, Bracebridge and Lake of Bays have dashboards they have not watered down due to STR operator complaints.

If someone opts out… what does that mean for the travelling public, who want to confirm the STR they are intending to book has a valid licence? How do other residents have a resource to know whether or not a STR being operated in their neighbourhood is licensed and in compliance with the requirements for fire safety, parking, and septic capacity? How can prospective purchasers in a neighbourhood or lake know if there are any, or many STRs, in the area before buying?

Sure, some STR operators don't want the information to be pubic. However, Privacy Commissioners Office (IPC) decisions have long recognized information required for business licensing is not considered private or personal, even if that business relates to the individual's dwelling. These folks are making thousands of dollars every summer on these rentals. They are businesses, so why should they have the right to opt out of declaring that publicly?

Land ownership information in Ontario is not private information, and can be accessed via the Ontario Land Registry Office, and people can look at roll books at township offices for MPAC ownership information for free.

Highlands East staff believe disclosing the locations of licensed STR accommodations foster trust and transparency in neighbourhoods where these operations are situated. Besides, if people are properly licensed, you'd think they'd want the address public for promotion.

At the end of day these people have applied for essentially, a business licence to operate. If they don't want their name on the map, they don't have to get a licence.

Highlands East has just become the first municipality in the County to make public mapping voluntary for licensed hosts. We urge them to reconsider. And we implore the other three townships to not follow suit.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Young artist enjoying Highlands' vibe

By Susan Tromanhauser

Arthur McLeod has no desire to live life as a starving artist, with plans to use his artistic talent to further a successful, fulfilling career.

The Gooderham resident is a summer student with the Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands, hired as a project assistant to promote Ontario Cultural Days, a new initiative in the Haliburton area. McLeod is grateful the Canada Summer Jobs program provided funds for his position, but bristled when he heard a provincial politician refer to his arts education as basket weaving. McLeod is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Ottawa where he is developing a range of skills to build a sustainable career.

McLeod said, "human creativity is important and there are many ways you can apply art to the job market."

McLeod sees curation and historical work in his future and describes documentation, archives and preservation as an interesting and valuable career.

Growing up in the Peterborough area, McLeod became interested in the arts in high school. Influence from his older brother led him to theatre arts. He shifted his focus when he realized he wanted to work with his hands and "liked the tactile nature of visual arts."

He gained confidence in his talent when his work was part of a student exhibition at the Kawartha Arts Gallery and he won a bursary. For McLeod, it was an opportunity to be part of the arts community, and not just a hobby.

When his family recently moved to Gooderham permanently, McLeod came to realize the depth of the arts community.

He says Haliburton County is "punching above its weight," with the arts proportionally stronger in the Highlands than in the much larger city of Ottawa. "Ottawa may be the capital of the country, but it is not perceived as an arts capital."

McLeod is impressed with the large group of artists in the area, all living in the "most gorgeous scenery." He is also amazed with the number of community partnerships, citing Castle Antiques and Poquito Loco merging to become an ideal place to congregate.

As a young person, relatively new to the area, McLeod finds there are many opportunities to get together and socialize. "Just check out the flyers and posters" for the many community events. He does acknowledge there is a greater distance to access some types of music and theatre, but "people in the city are more sheltered." In Haliburton, "there is more effort made to push a movement." McLeod wants to get more involved in the community and is considering the Central Food Network for volunteering.

Arthur McLeod is a summer student with the Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands. *Submitted.*

At the age of 20, McLeod is not committing to anything, but acknowledges Haliburton might be an ideal place to settle. After all, his mother's garage is a great space for an artist's studio.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Dear Donald

Dear editor,

This is an open letter to U.S. president Donald Trump.

We have intentionally set fire to most of our forests just to blow some lovely fragrant smoke your way.

We hope you appreciate the wonderful campfire aromas we are currently exporting to your country.

We have sacrificed numerous (now destroyed) communities, and millions of acres of forest in order to provide you with this truly amazing campfire-like experience.

The many now-displaced and homeless people affected by our efforts to entertain you say they are more than happy to have their lives disrupted and their property destroyed if it provides you with even a modicum of entertainment.

We hope to make it even bigger next year, Don.

Brendan Berube
Gull Lake

Land taxes

Dear editor,

This is a concern of every Ontarian and it seems no one is doing anything about it.

Well, I would like some answers.

I was flabbergasted to find that when I bought a new home, I had to pay an extra $10,000 for land taxes on a $720,000 home.

I then looked into it and found a scale used for all homebuyers in Ontario.

The scheduled percentage amount of land transfer tax on buying a home are as follows: amount up to $55,000 is .5 per cent; over $55,000 to $250,000 is one per cent; $250,000 to $400,000 is 1.5 per cent; $400,000 to $2 million is two per cent; and $2 million and up is 2.5 per cent.

How do they expect new homebuyers to have this extra money and if it is put on a mortgage, do they have any idea how much the land transfer tax will cost over the lifetime of the mortgage?

Dan Trautman
Haliburton

Right decision

Dear editor,

A prerequisite for any plan is to conduct research. Failure to do so usually results in surprises.

As a Moose Lake resident in an area zoned residential, I am relieved that a proposal for a commercial establishment such as a bed and breakfast has been turned down.

Playing the emotional cards of not supporting those with disabilities, and not fulfilling lifelong dreams is a non-starter.

As for cost and regulatory concerns, they level the playing field for properly registered businesses, enforce zoning bylaws and protecting residents who own adjacent properties.

Ted Atkinson
Moose Lake

Democracy and boondoggles

Dear editor,

As Ms. Douglas wrote in her letter last week, the Ontario PCs won a majority in the 2025 provincial election with 43 per cent of the votes cast (the Liberals got 30 per cent).

With voter turnout of 45.4 per cent, the PC votes represented only 19.5 per cent of registered voters, and the Liberals' votes represented 13.6 per cent.

This low voter turnout is disappointing. At the federal level in 2021 with 62 per cent turnout, the Trudeau/Carney Liberals were able to govern as a majority for four years despite receiving only 20.6 per cent of potential voters' support (one in five) even though Erin O'Toole's CPC had 21.3 per cent. This, of course, was due to the NDP supporting the Liberals (and we know how that worked out for them.)

So, while those in Ontario who voted in 2025 for a PC majority got one, Canadians who voted in 2021 for a CPC minority received instead a Liberal majority, which the country may never recover from. So much for democracy?

Unfortunately, the uninformed and complacent voters who, along with the biased government-bought-and-paid-for mainstream national media, should be Canadian democracy's greatest concern.

Hopefully, Haliburton voters will pay more attention to the upcoming municipal elections this fall, and turn out in better numbers than four and eight years ago: Dysart, 31.5 per cent and 39.6 per cent; Minden Hills, 24.8 per cent and 31.5 per cent; Algonquin Highlands, 28.9 per cent and 35.5 per cent; and Highlands East, 21.3 per cent and 31.6 per cent.

Surely more than two-thirds of Haliburton voters care enough about local issues than that.

As for Mr. Atkinson's excellent letter regarding the Liberal's latest boondoggle, for which billions are being spent on marketing, photo-ops, and "planning" without a single shovel ever going into the ground, the only question taxpayers need ask is "who's getting rich this time?"

But this is Canada, and I refer you to my comment above characterizing voters.

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

Minden Health Care Auxiliary says thanks

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary, we would like to thank everyone who supported us on our tag day fundraiser July 10.

This community never ceases to amaze in their generosity. This year, we were able to raise almost $6,000. This will go a long way in helping with the list of needs at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care Home (LTC) and to support the adult day program.

We thank each and every person who contributed, all local media who helped spread the word, and the businesses who supported us.

We can't do this without you.

Just a reminder, our annual wine on wheels tickets are on sale at our gift shop just outside the LTC home and from most of our members. Your chance to win 48 bottles of wine and a wheel barrow (generously donated by Canadian Tire) for just $5 a ticket or three for $10.

Draw to take place Sept. 26 at the Minden farmers market. Good luck.

Cecille Gibbons
MHCA

County concerns

Dear editor,

I was wondering if you could tell me, or know anybody, that can tell me why Haliburton County has no service standards?

I have not received even a confirmation from the County saying they have received my email in regards to closing my permit, let alone a date for final inspection.

I had the same issues when applying for my permit.

I really do see how improving this lack of policy would enhance the County's economic development.

Einar Karklins
Highland East

Editor's note: Since writing the initial letter, Karklins said his permit issue is now being resolved after he contacted County staff. However, he said there was no apology or date for inspection.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

This curious little guy was eyeing Shirley Davison-Mark's bird feeders in Haliburton.

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

A PODCAST ABOUT ALL THINGS LOCAL

AVAILABLE AT THEHIGHLANDER.CA
AND ANYWHERE YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS

THIS WEEK:

Meet Minden Hills Mayoral Candidate Pam Sayne

Highlander community

Kristyn Begbie has raised money with photo booths. *File*.

$94K raised for shelter build

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills-based animal rescue, Snowflake Meadows, hopes to break ground soon on its new kennel after raising more than $94,000 for the project in just over a years' time.

Owner Kristyn Begbie told *The Highlander* she is amazed they were able to meet their fundraising goal in such a short period of time. She thought it would take five years. "I am honestly completely blown out of the water," she said on Monday (July 13).

Begbie said their blizzard campaign, corporate sponsorships, and donated time, materials and expertise are key to the effort. Other money was raised via the magical festival fundraiser in early June, and Santa's magical moments in November.

With the blizzard campaign, people were asked to make a $200 donation, after which their name, or business, was displayed on a snowflake on the rescue's donation paw wall "symbolizing the public's commitment to saving lives for decades to come."

She added there were others who were "incredibly generous" by just giving monetary donations.

Now, all they are waiting for is a permit from the Township of Minden Hills. Begbie said a fall build would be ideal but, "any time would be ideal. I just want it to happen. I get phone calls every week about strays and I just don't know where to put these dogs." She said they have rescued more than 100 dogs since the beginning of this year.

The project is a full build of a 10-unit indoor-outdoor kennel facility. Begbie said, "this expansion will allow us to help more dogs in need and provide the safe, comfortable care they deserve."

She further described it as a "safe, warm, and permanent shelter for countless animals in need. This facility will provide secure housing, medical care, and a stepping stone to forever homes, ensuring that every rescued animal has a chance at a brighter future."

Begbie said in some ways she feels her mission is like climbing a mountain with no end. "But having 10 extra spaces lets me sleep a bit easier knowing that I've saved 10 more dogs from potentially being euthanized or hit by a car, or just not having the ability to have a second chance."

She said as it is now, she has a "naughty" room in her house for newly-rescued dogs not ready to mix with others. They have their own crates and can be rotated for private trips outside. Other dogs can visit through a barrier. If the rescues are not ready to socialize, she can put up a curtain.

"To have these 10 kennels, it's essentially going to be able to give me the time, and the dog, the time to decompress by itself in its own space before integrating it into the house to try to learn. It is a safer approach for me, my family, my three kids."

Asked what she would like to say to campaign donors, Begbie said, "thank you for believing in me. Thank you for recognizing the need in this community for all the unwanted animals, or strays. From the bottom of my heart, I'm incredibly thankful to be supported to the degree that I am and to be able to do this with the support of the community. It's not cheap. I can't wait to have the opening party for it."

Highlander community

Duchene golf classic hits milestone

In its 28th year, the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic raised nearly $315,000 in support of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation during the annual tournament at Blairhampton Golf Club on Friday (July 17). A total of $314,592.50 was raised during the all-day event that featured multiple rounds of golf, silent auctions, raffles and more.

Top: Volunteers pose for a photo during Friday's golf classic. Above: Volunteers barbecue some sausages, hot dogs and burgers after the first round of golf. Top right: Matt Duchene arrives to kick off the second round of golf at his charity classic. Right: Haliburton Foodland's Brad Park buys some raffle tickets. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Highlander people

Just the Highlands

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

thehighlander.app

New executive director of the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society, Amanda Baker-Colacicco. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Haliburton CAS rebuild

By Lisa Gervais

The new executive director of the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS) visited Haliburton last Wednesday (July 15) to meet with agency staff and Point in Time.

The Highlander asked Amanda Baker-Colacicco about a tumultuous time for the organization. In 2024, it was announced KHCAS would no longer have a physical office in Haliburton and would lose one full-time staff member. Shortly after, the province appointed a temporary supervisor, saying it no longer had confidence in the society's ability to address operational issues and a growing deficit. The board resigned the same day.

Rosaleen Cutler was appointed supervisor, and later interim executive director. A new board was appointed last November. Cutler determined maintaining an office in Haliburton was a good plan, and while there was a job loss across the agency, she said it did not affect the Haliburton office.

Baker-Colacicco started June 15.

"My meeting with our staff this morning was really just to get a sense of what their day-to-day is like in service delivery. Service delivery in the different parts of our jurisdictional area look different, and require different partnerships - and just to get a sense from them how this time period has gone for them; what are their perspectives on things now; what I need to be aware of coming into my role," she said in an interview.

The new ED added the organization is going into a strategic planning period, so she wanted to hear from long-standing staff members "of a team I am just joining. People were open, but equally excited and hopeful about the opportunities."

She was asked about the uniqueness of Haliburton County, including higher poverty rates, and said while she is still becoming acclimated to the circumstances of the community, she was aware of high poverty rates, particularly high child poverty rates, "which for our service delivery is so relevant."

She discussed, "a risk of maltreatment because of some of the systemic barriers that families may face and the stressors that can put on a family system.

"Our staff here do see different circumstances, not only because of the systemic realities but also what they have available to them in terms of resources spanning across a large jurisdictional area."

Community partnerships

She said that in meeting with Point in Time, they chatted about working together to meet challenging needs, such as public transportation, or getting multiple services in one place at one time.

She feels being "quite" connected to community partners is important, noting she is new, but staff have been on the ground here for several years.

"Families and young people are facing a myriad of challenges, and it's not just one phone call that's going to make the difference. It's often a partnership of service provision."

Asked if staffing is keeping up with demand, Baker-Colacicco said the agency has been hiring. There are three protection staff in the Haliburton office and a manager who also oversees some staff in Lindsay. That is down from a receptionist, six staff, and a manager over the years.

But Baker-Colacicco said, "If we didn't have enough staff to meet the service need, we would need to address that."

She added, "generally speaking, the service volumes have trended down in child welfare. But, the circumstances that children, young people and families are facing in communities are increasingly complex."

As for reassuring the community about the CAS presence going forward, Baker-Colacicco said "our services are critical to communities and our services are mandated."

Speaking to finances, she said the KHCAS budget is not yet balanced. "And we don't project to be in the near term." She added the new board is still in a rebuilding stage, and looking for more members.

"We do not, at present, have board director representation from this part of our community, so I would love to hear the voice of Haliburton at our board table. That would be really meaningful.

"I believe in the future of KHCAS. I'm excited about the future of the organization. I believe it's been a difficult couple of years, both for the organization, the impact on the community, and on our service recipients."

It's nicer here

Highlander history

Cabins, camps and lodges remembered

By Lisa Gervais

Linda Lewis-Daly has been coming to Northern Eagle Trailer Park since the 1960s. The park, off Caribou Road between Minden and Haliburton, sits on Lake Kashagawigamog.

She said it was her intention to write a book about Northern Eagle for association members, but that project morphed into the history of the lost cabins, camps and lodges of the five-lake chain. It's titled *Lodging Legacies.*

"I always say that this is book two, and I haven't finished writing book one yet," Lewis-Daly said while seated at the kitchen table of her trailer recently.

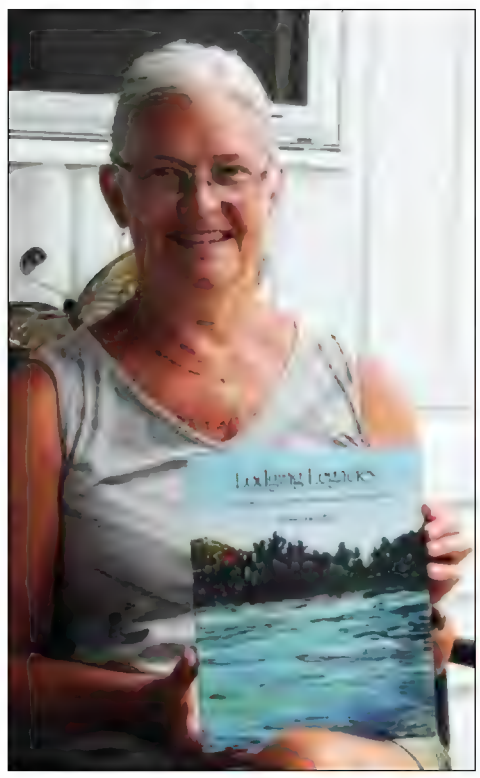
She ended up researching and writing about 44 places, and the Golden Slipper dance hall. She knows there's others, including B&Bs, but information was scant.

"A lot of the original owners have died, like the lodges themselves have died."

Lewis-Daly said her strong connection to Northern Eagle, and the nostalgia it evokes, represent a "visceral connection" for her. She knew those who had stayed at all of those former cabins, camps and lodges would have the same reaction to seeing those establishments featured in a book.

"I just love the lake. This is our little piece of heaven. Driving up the 404, the minute we get off onto Ravenshoe Road, the world changes; your breathing changes. We just love being here."

She began the work by visiting Master's Book Store in Haliburton to see what had already been written. Owner Kathy Stouffer was a great source of information. She read about the pioneering days and settling of the County. She joined the Haliburton County Genealogy Group, to tap into their resources. She added, "it's amazing what information you can find in obituaries."



Author, Linda Lewis-Daly with her book, *Lodging Legacies. Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

She then sought out former owners and other people associated with the cabins, camps and lodges to conduct a series of interviews. A self-described introvert, it took her out of her comfort zone. During those chats, she was told some interesting tales, even some ghost stories, including this one from the Wigamog Inn.

Ghost stories

"One of the owners' wives had passed away. She was killed in a car accident. She had been very precise in how she taught the dining staff to set the tables. When breakfast was set the night before, and if it wasn't set exactly the way she had taught staff, when they came back in the morning, everything had been changed."

There was another tale at another establishment about blood appearing on barn walls, then disappearing again.

Lewis-Daly was able to get the words, but also needed images. She sourced some online, others from interviewees. She got permission to use images of Group of Seven paintings, three of which depict Haliburton County.

Lewis-Daly said she felt it was an important piece of history to capture now.

"The importance of the project for me was the story. Some of the storytellers are starting to leave us. Some of the lodge owners that are still with us are in their 90s."

She thinks Highlanders are good at telling stories orally, but not writing them down.

It's been a true labour of love, with the author starting casual research before the pandemic.

She recalled hosting guests from Lost Haliburton Boat Tours aboard the Lady of the Lake at Northern Eagle, which has an historic farmhouse from the late 1860s. One of the guests was looking for a red brick inscribed by family members and they found it. "Just watching her excitement sparked me to delve into that."

Asked about the lost cabins, camps and lodges, Lewis-Daly said, "this was the heyday of tourism, and tourism is what has made the character of Haliburton County. And tourism, just like everything, has evolved and is changing. It is less the lodges and more the individually-owned cottages and income properties."

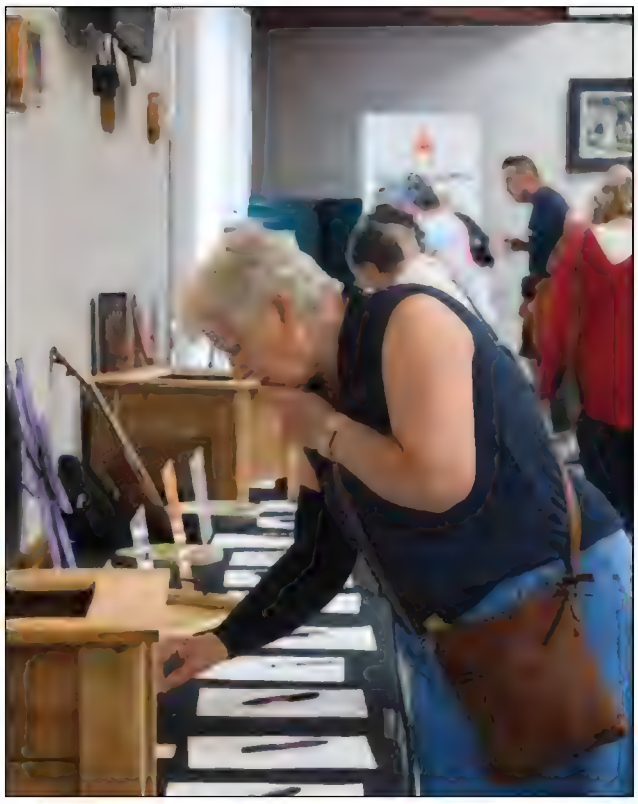
She said the transient nature of short-term rentals is changing that history, "as opposed to guests becoming family members of the owners, and the forming of lifelong friendships."

Lewis-Daly said she is excited the book is out there. "My goal now is for people to read it and to have the book invoke their own memories. Or to help people understand the history of tourism and how it's changed. The reception has been really great."

The book is available at Master's Book Store in Haliburton.

Highlander events

thehighlander.app



Coffee for a cause

A "coffee in the park fundraiser" was held at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday (July 18) to raise funds for non-profit Fuel for Warmth. The event featured a silent auction, live music and of course, coffee and treats. The event was originally scheduled to be held at Head Lake Park but was moved due to air quality concerns from wildfire smoke. The event raised more than $11,000 for the charity.

Top: Joan Craig and Don Wade clink coffee mugs during the coffee in the park fundraiser. Above left: Randall Ellsworth was one of the three musical acts to perform on Saturday. Above middle: Fuel for Warmth's Sue Waite, Drew Allen and Michelle Anton pose for a photo at the start of the event. Middle right: An attendee checks out some items on the silent auction table. Right: People select their coffee mugs at the start of the coffee in the park. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

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Blairhampton Road $469,000
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- Private Near Lakes & Trails, In-Floor Heat
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Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

West Guilford Home $524,900
- 3-bed home on 4.9 acres, private
- Walk to lake, garage, heat pumps
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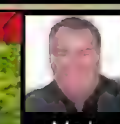
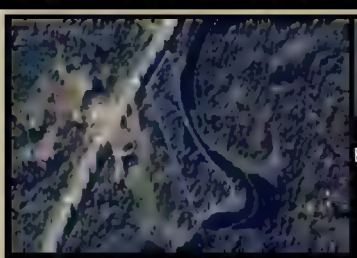


NEW PRICE

Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

Miskwabi Lake $1,175,000
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 4-Season Home/Cottage
- Beach, Dock & Screened Gazebo, Garage
- Workshop & Loft Suite, 2-Lake Chain



Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Lot on Irondale River $40,000
- Over 600ft of frontage on Irondale River
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- Great for camping potential!

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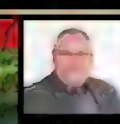
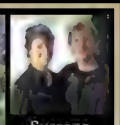
Irondale River Retreat $575,000
- 3-Bed Cottage On 9.1 Scenic Acres
- 2,000+ft Waterfront, Gazebo & Deck
- Clear Water & Stunning Sunsets



NEW PRICE

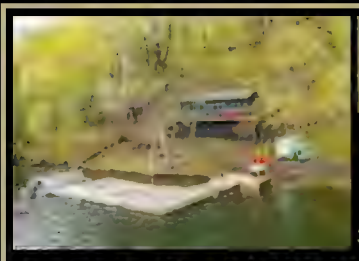
Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Fully Renovated Home $799,000
- 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath, Screened Deck
- 3-Room Bunkie w/ Hydro, 5 Mins to Hali
- Public Access to Kash. Lk Nearby



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake - $925,000
- 190ft waterfront, Sandy shore, Lake views
- Custom kitchen, Wraparound Deck
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Screened porch, Garage



Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

Long Lake Gem! $499,000
- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
- 3 bd. 1 bth, large deck, fully furnished
- Perfect for active cottagers!

OPEN HOUSE

Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

In-Town Minden Home $399,900
- Cozy 3 Bed, 2 Bath Downtown Home
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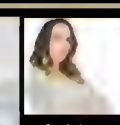
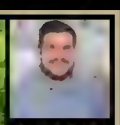
- OPEN HOUSE: Sat, July 25 @ 11am-1pm



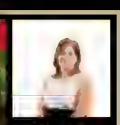
Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Luxury Condo Living $449,900
- 2 Beds, 2 Baths, Bright Corner Suite
- Covered Balcony with Sunset Views
- Heat, Water & Parking, Motivated Seller!



Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

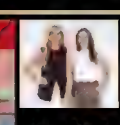
Minden Home $550,000
- 5 Beds/3 Baths, 2,600SqFt, 1.5 Acres
- Walkout to a Large, Private Backyard
- 5-Lake Chain Public Boat Launch Nearby



SOLD IN 5 DAYS!

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Kabakwa Lake Retreat
- 5bd/1ba, 150' Sandy South-Facing WF
- Warm Wood Finishes, Open Concept
- Turnkey Including Furnishings!



NEW LISTING

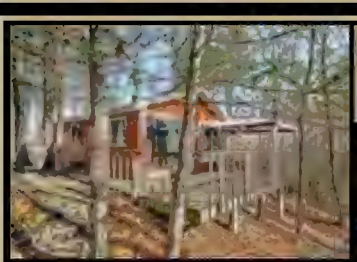
Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Silver Beach on Kash Lk! $899,900
- 3 Beds/2.5 Baths, Silver Beach Comm.
- Lg Lakefront Deck, Attached Garage
- Access to Shared Dock, Walking Trails

SOLD

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Fortescue Lake Gem
- 4 BR Cottage + Spacious Bunkie
- Sand Shoreline, Deck & Lake Views
- Furnished & Move-In Ready, Level Lot



Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Sharon Lake $425,000
- 3-bed cottage on quiet no-motor lake
- Sandy beach, dock & sunset views
- 10 mins to Minden. Family-ready!

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Minden Home $675,000
- 3 Beds/2 Bath, 2,100+SqFt, 3.49 Acres
- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
- Private Backyard Pond, 3 Mins to Minden

NEW LISTING

Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839
Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Muskoka River Lot $239,900
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MerCruiser 4.5 250 hp, Seadek throughout, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover, Depth Sounder

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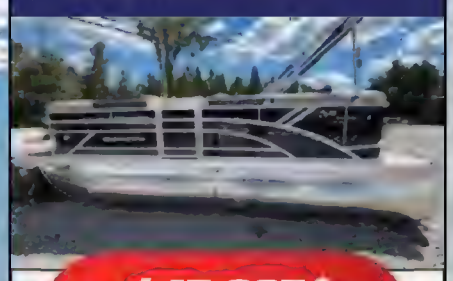

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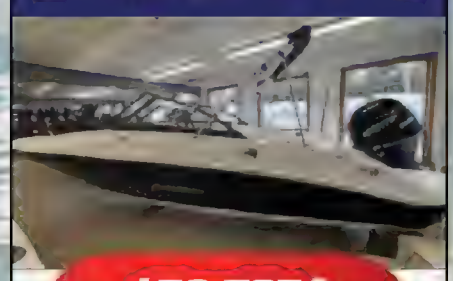
Yamaha T60 Highthrust, 25" Pontoons, 10' Bimini Top, Mooring Cover

STINGRAY 172 SC 2025

$44,995*

Yamaha F90, Ski Pole, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover

STINGRAY 191 DC



$53,795*

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Ski pole, Bimini top, Tilt Steering, Battery Switch

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Highlander events

Haliburton arm wrestling club levels up

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The familiar thwack of hands hitting leather pads echoing across Head Lake on Thursday evenings has returned for another summer.

The Haliburton Arm Wrestling Club has transitioned from a casual local meetup into a competitive force, marking growth one year after bringing its training tables to the public docks in town.

The group, which meets on Thursday evenings at the Head Lake public docks, is now regularly competing in amateur events and regional leagues, including tournaments in Belleville.

"We're getting these wins at the tournaments now," club organizer Brad Barry told *The Highlander.* "It's a good feeling. There's been some improvement on technique and such, so it's been pretty sweet."

When club members aren't practicing down on the docks, they are hitting cable machines to build the hyper-specific, tendon strength the sport requires. But any experienced "puller" would tell you, gym strength only goes so far, Barry explained.

"That's why it's key for everyone to come out," he said. "To get better at arm wrestling, you actually have to do it."

That preparation is put to the test in structured tournament environments. According to club member Dylan Graham, the competitive bracket system is highly accessible to newcomers, offering lots of opportunities to gain experience.

"Even if you lose the very first match, you can work your way all the way up because they have a double-elimination bracket," Graham said of some of the regional tournaments.

At higher competitive levels, arm wrestling becomes deeply analytical, like many other sports. Graham noted that competitors routinely study recordings of matches to analyze opponents' setups and look for physical "tells" before a match begins.

While tournament days showcase the explosive power, what the club describes as going "zero to 100," Thursday nights are reserved for mentorship. Solomon Dicks, a 30-year veteran of the sport, still acts as the club's safety anchor. Practice sessions are strictly controlled environments where veterans teach newcomers how to protect their joints.

"If we are pulling and someone is in a bad spot, we tell each other, 'okay, take it down,'" Graham said. Thursdays are for learning technique and conditioning the body to be unique, while ensuring that the club's golden rule remains intact: everybody's got to go to work tomorrow.

The public nature of the Head Lake docks training sessions has also turned the weekly practices into a bit of a local attraction, drawing in curious passersby. Among those who stepped up to the table was Cooper Scott Dennis, who was in town visiting from nearby Kilcoo Camp.

"I thought it looked like an amazing experience to just come and try and hang out," Dennis said.

After testing his strength against the club regulars, the young man said he was surprised by the complexity of the sport.

"That was crazy. I didn't know that there were so many different parts into arm wrestling and there were so many rules... I didn't know that it was so serious," Dennis said.

The club meets at the Head Lake public docks in Haliburton village on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. All experience levels are welcome to attend.

Top: Club members Dylan Graham and Solomon Dicks share a laugh during Thursday night's training session.
Above: Cooper Scott Dennis learns about technique and skill from Dylan Graham.
Photos by Adam Frisk.

Highlander events

Art on the water

The 12th annual Art on the Dock took place at Kennisis Lake over the weekend with more than 20 artists showcasing their work throughout the area. The art crawl is hosted by Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association and has donated more than $40,000 to the Artists in the Schools and Community initiative.

Top left: Nicole Bezdikian is pictured with her ceramics on Saturday (July 18). Top middle: Brenda and John Smith pose for a photo with Barb Larcina after purchasing the piece during the art festival. Top right: Cottagers browse. Above: Keeley Smith, Hannah and Lyla Duiker are all smiles. Above right: Christine Gowland shows off some of her ceramic work. Right: Artists Megan Marsiglio, Phyllis Walton, Larcina and Lynda Henry pose for a photo. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

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Highlander events

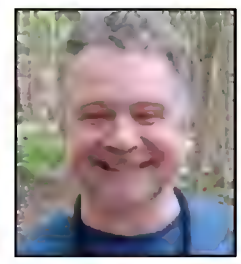
Carrying torch for Red Wolves

The Haliburton Red Wolves law enforcement torch run made its way down Highland Street on Saturday (July 18) afternoon in support of the Special Olympics and training. Members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment participated in the torch runs that also took place in Minden and Kinmount earlier in the day.

Top: A member of the Red Wolves team carries the torch through downtown Haliburton. Middle: Red Wolves begin to make their way down Highland Street on Saturday afternoon. Above: Red Wolves teammates wave to people as they pass through downtown. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

ADVERTORIAL

Land heals but it doesn't go back



By Simon Payn

I visited a new construction site the other week – I get called in often to help fix them up after the inevitable gash of backhoe and truck.

These sites look like a wound in the forest – but with the seed of something great inside them. Humans have disturbed woodland to make a home and now they want to fix it.

The most obvious hurt is the forest edge. Bare trunks are revealed where forest used to be.

Some of the trees are accidentally damaged – a possibly fatal wound that will take a few years to play out. Others stand tall and alone, perhaps the centrepiece of the new cottage landscape.

This is the inevitable disturbance of residence. We're not the only creatures to disturb a landscape, and disturbance is an important ecological process.

But those who call me want to go to the next stage.

Mullein and goldenrod

I just finished a project at a new construction site where I planted 1,300 small perennials and a few shrubs to bridge the gap between cottage and forest.

The land had already started healing: ruderal plants – what we might consider weeds – had popped up. Mullein, yarrow, the first shoots of goldenrod.

I could have left it and, given enough time, the yarrow would give way to raspberry which would give way to oak and maple. Nature heals itself.

In this project I helped the process along. In the sunny areas I added more later-stage perennials and grasses: little bluestem, foxglove beardtongue, liatris, three types of aster.

At the edge of the site I added dogwoods and ninebarks to soften the edge of the forest, and a serviceberry for flowers and berries.

My client will weed out the unwanted plants – pulling the fuzzy leaves of the mullein and keeping an eye on annual grasses and horseweeds – to allow the longer-lived plants to take over.

She will have a landscape that looks established and part of the site rather than weedy.

Nature will have a head-start on healing.

Sparrows and chipmunks

My own home is eight years into the process. I've been pretty laissez-faire, allowing nature to do its thing. I did however plant some dogwoods, pearly everlastings and columbines. Because I wanted to.

This year nature has leapt forward. The herbaceous plants are lush. The dogwoods and willows I added are large. The elderberries and poplars I didn't are even bigger. Bare slope is now a thicket, home to song sparrow nests and chipmunk burrows.

And on the other side of the house, flowering plants I added are breaking up compacted ground, ferns I didn't are growing in the part-shaded conditions around the septic. Common milkweed, which found a home for itself, is forming a lilac-scented forest.

> The opening cut from the forest for my home will always be an opening – black cherry will never replace my kitchen. But I see dogwood flowers and woodpeckers out of my living room windows.

Dogwood flowers

My landscape looks healthier – but it will never go back to where it was. The opening cut from the forest for my home will always be an opening – black cherry will never replace my kitchen.

But I see dogwood flowers and woodpeckers out of the living room windows. Pale green pearly everlasting leaves brush my legs as I walk down the hill to the dock and monarch caterpillars crawl on the swamp milkweed leaves by the water.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes in Haliburton County. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

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Highlander events

Pennies in

Hundreds attended the annual gigantic penny raffle in Wilberforce on Saturday (July 18), with the event a huge success according to one of the organizers, Kathy Rogers. There were over 300 prizes raffled off. The day was organized by volunteers from the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost, the Wilberforce Agricultural Fair and Wilberforce FUNraising Group. The Wilberforce Curling Club put on a spaghetti dinner, there were games and face painting for kids and hat decorating for people of all ages, with people modelling their finished piece in the ever-popular hat parade. Rogers said a final fundraising total was still being determined. *(Mike Baker).*

Above: Ella Principe poses in her finished hat, which she wore for the hat parade. Top right: The Browning family buying some tickets for the raffle. Right: Snack bar volunteers with their famous purple unicorn cookies. From left to right: Gail Gotter, Nicole Martin, Ann Deelstra, Tammy Martin, Joan Barton and Caitlin Gransma. *Submitted.*

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other **Friday**
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. July 27, darts at 7 p.m.; Mexican train dominos at 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. July 28 exercise club at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. July 29 darts at 2 p.m.; ladies auxiliary quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. July 23 and 30 horseshoes at 7 p.m.; July 23 HHHS social recreation at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. July 31 wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.; July 24 cannelloni dinner and live music from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. July 25, 100th celebration at noon, with activities all day; meat draw at 3 p.m.
Sunday closed, special events only.

Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS

The Haliburton 4CS Food Bank is hosting its Christmas in July fundraiser all month long. Stop by the facility at 26 York St. every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon to "cool off with Christmas music." They're asking for new, unwrapped toys or cash donations to be dropped off at CanoeFM or the food bank, with e-transfers to 4csfoodbank@gmail.com. There will also be donation boxes at Foodland and Todd's Independent. Contact Lewis Ewing at 705-457-5831 or louiseanneewing@gmail.com.

July 23, dusk. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre invites people to bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars, with a showing of *Treasure Planet*. Movie screening will be indoor if it rains. There will also be a showing of *Tron: Legacy* Aug. 27.

July 24, noon to 5 p.m. The annual Haliburton Arts and Crafts Festival takes over Head Lake Park. Featuring 100 artisans from across Canada. The show will also run Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is $5, with youth 15 and under free.

July 24, 2 p.m. Learn more about environmentally friendly end-of-life choices and how green burial supports land conservation while offering a natural return to the earth. Presentation by Terry Moore at the Minden Hills library branch. All are welcome.

July 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Little Bloom Co. is hosting Bloomfest at its location at 1141 Ritchie Falls Rd. Join for a celebration of all things flowers. There will be vendors offering their goods, delicious food and live music. Lots of kids activities, including face painting, games and crafts. Photo booth and yoga sessions also available.

July 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Caboose Bike Hub in Head Lake Park is open for the season. Stop by on Tuesdays for railway history, kids' corner, bike information and more. Services and programming are free to the public. For more information, contact Pamela Marsales at 705-457-4767.

July 28, 10 a.m. Free guided tour of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Meet at the kiosk in the Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held every Tuesday through July and August rain or shine and can take up to two hours. By donation.

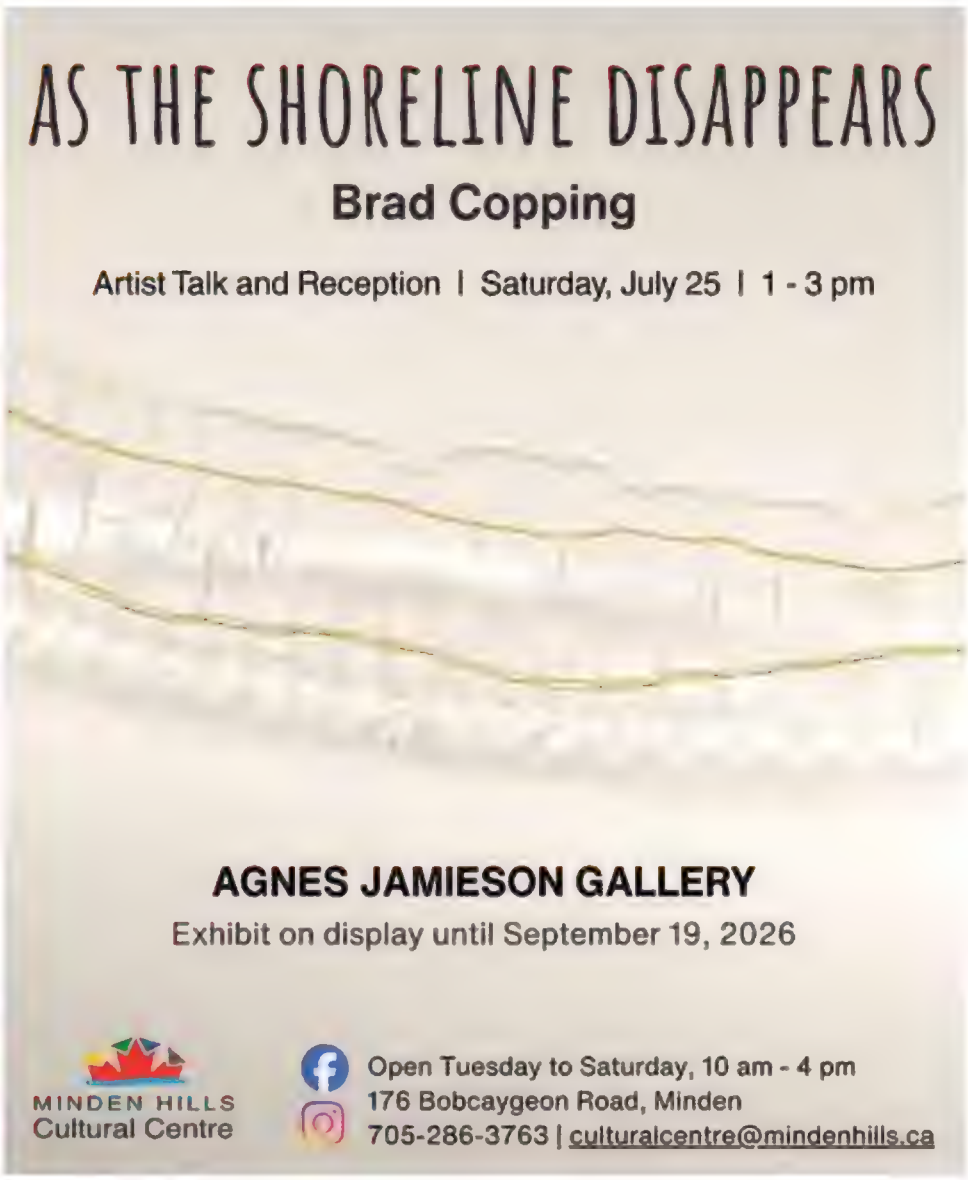
July 28, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Critter visits at the Kinmount Public Library. This event is free to the public.

July 31, 1 p.m. The Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library is holding an afternoon screening of *Paddington in Peru* in the Welch Room. Light refreshments will be provided.

August 1, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Haliburton Lions' volunteer toll bridge day. Volunteers will be stationed across from the library on Maple Avenue. All donations are used to support our community. For more information, visit www.haliburtonlions.com.

August 4, 7 p.m. Do you want to learn more about gardening? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre. Guest speaker Anna Mizyn will discuss shade gardening. Monthly society meeting to follow. All are welcome.

August 6, 1 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a free screening of the documentary *Love, Scott*, presented in partnership with Pride in the Highlands. All are welcome.



Crazy: Bringing Patsy to the Highlands

By Lisa Gervais

After "really missing" the Highlands Summer Festival season last year, Leisa Way and her band return with 'sweet dreams: the music of Patsy Cline' for five shows starting Aug. 2.

She has brought four shows over the years to the festival at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion (NLPAP): Early Morning Rain (Gord Lightfoot), Opry Gold, Across the Pond (British Invasion), and Rock n' Roll is Here to Stay.

Way said she thinks Haliburton County audiences are a mix of country folk and people from away, "but they all love music" and particularly good music.

She noted she got her start in opera, with country music coming to her later in life.

"The people who come to our shows are so warm. We just love the audiences. There's an instant rapport that you sometimes don't get at other theatres. And that theatre (the NLPAP) is long, and you still feel like it's very intimae when you are on the stage, so that is a real plus."

Way said she was struck by the artistic community when she first came to the Highlands. "Haliburton was such a wonderful surprise because people from every art medium have come to one place." She recalled meeting folks involved in theatre, opera, and all sorts of different kinds of music." She recalled billeting with fiddle players. There were ceilis - traditionally social gatherings featuring Celtic folk music - with camaraderie and everyone welcome.

Way said she's bringing a high-energy concert for all ages that celebrates the legendary Cline, who transformed the music industry as a trailblazing singer who crossed over from country into pop, rock, and the blues.

Way said she and the Wayward Wind Band concert have been called "the finest Patsy Cline concert in North America."

The band of all-star, award-winning Canadian musicians includes virtuoso guitarist/singer Yvan Petit, who has been a guest on the Grand Ole Opry. The other musicians are: Doug Balfour, piano and vocals, Bob Hewus bass and vocals and drummer John Collin. Way said, "this group of seasoned veteran performers raise the roof on every stage they grace."

She added the two-hour concert captures the magic of Cline's live performances, sharing 25 of the singer's biggest hits, and including fascinating stories and humorous insights into Cline's life. She said people will hear songs such as 'Walkin' After Midnight", "I Fall to Pieces", and "Crazy" - which became massive crossover hits, proving country could dominate the pop charts.

Way said Cline was a trailblazer for all women. "She was the first female country singer to headline her own shows, including at Vegas and Carnegie Hall, and she was the first woman to wear pants on stage at the Grand Ole Opry."

She added she shares Cline's great sense of humour with riveting stories that have never been shared before, including fascinating tales of Cline's time performing in Canada. "Patsy loved her Canadian friends."

Sweet Dreams has toured more than 150 theatres across Europe and Canada, playing to sold-out crowds.

Way said, "it's been over 60 years since the world lost this legendary singer in a plane crash at the age of only 30," but they're keeping Cline's spirit and music alive.

For tickets, call the Highlands Summer Festival at 855-457-9933 or visit - highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

Sweet Dreams show schedule: Aug. 2 at 2 p.m.; Aug. 3 at 7 p.m.; Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.; Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.; and Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.

Leisa Way is coming to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion with her Patsy Cline show. *Submitted.*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- July 23 – Regular Council Meeting
- August 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Don't miss our new exhibit *As the Shoreline Disappears* by glass artist Brad Copping, on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 19. Join us and the artist at the Opening Reception on Saturday, July 25 from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.
- Join us for a free outdoor screening of *Treasure Planet* (2002) on Thursday, July 23 at 8:30 PM. Admission is by donation. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening under the stars. If it rains, the event will take place indoors at Welch Room.
- *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora will be on display at the Cultural Centre until August 29.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by for drop-in activities for children each day from 11 am – 12 pm. This week: Tues – portrait making, Wed – butter in a jar, Thurs – plein air painting in the village, Fri – apple tree identification, Sat – stained glass craft.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION IS APPROACHING

Confirm you are on the Voters List! The next municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca.

Election staff is available for assistance at the Administration Office (7 Milne St.) Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (excluding holidays).

DROP-IN OF THE DAY

Drop off your youth for an afternoon of fun during the Drop-In of The Day program Monday-Thursday from 1:00pm-3:00pm at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (when we don't have day camp running).

Pre-registration is encouraged so we can prepare accordingly. Register online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or at the arena in person or phone, (705) 286-1936 ext. 554.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT THIS WEEK

Safely dispose of your household hazardous waste July 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena. Please ensure you have your waste disposal card. Residents can attend any hazardous waste event in the County. For a full list of events happening within the County, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 • Fax: 705-286-4917

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life
for
Herb Rogers

July 25, 2026
at the Haliburton legion in the club room from 2:30 to 4:30pm

CARD OF THANKS

thank you

The family of the late Bill Picard wish to express their sincere gratitude to all for your love and prayers during our time of sadness.

Thank you to those who came to the visitation; for the supportive words during the memorial service including Paul Graham, Steve Archibald and Doug Mitchell; for the many cards, flowers, donations, texts and phone calls.

A special thank you to the nurses and staff at HHHS, Dr. Bottum, Dr. Lupu and also Dr. Butera, for their wonderful care; the staff and friends at The Gardens of Haliburton for their love; and last but not least to Dwaine Lloyd and his staff at Haliburton Community Funeral Home.

Our family most certainly felt the love that is enjoyed, living in this amazing community.

Our dear Husband, Dad, Grampa Bill will be missed very much and we thank God that he lived a good, full, long life with us.

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ACOUSTIC GUITAR / VOCALIST available for private parties, bars and corporate events. Songs ranging from the 70's / 80's / 90's to current hits. I have played the Rockcliffe (Moore Falls) / Graz (Bobcaygeon) / and this year I am also playing Kinmount Music in the Park / Taste of the Kingsway (in Toronto for a 2nd year – 500+ people) and many other events and bars. Call or text - 416.580.3195 for more info and to get the conversation started.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Woodfired Pizza Business
Own a seasonal pizza truck & catering business. Into the Blue comes fully equipped and ready for the 2026 season. Contact info@abbeygardens.ca

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
We have built and owned a five-bedroom cottage in Haliburton on Redstone Lake for the past twenty five years. As an elderly couple in good health and energetic, we are looking for a husband and wife team to look after our cottage - the wife looking after the inside and the husband focusing on the outdoors. We would like our place to be visited once a week through out the year to accomplish tasks of cleaning, arranging, maintenance, and other requirements directed by us from time to time. We will gladly consider any reasonable expectations of compensation. Please call Suresh Bhalla at 416 904 6345.

HELP WANTED

Haliburton

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires
Multiple Citizen Appointments to the Joint Accessibility Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. It is County Council's desire for appointments to the various boards and committees to be reflective of the demographic and geographical makeup of the County of Haliburton. Currently the Committee is comprised of one elected County Council representative from each of the member municipalities. Qualified applicants to the Joint Accessibility Committee will be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County
- A public person living with a disability

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and application form. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca **no later than 4:30pm on August 7, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

HELP WANTED- Mark's Restaurant is hiring a part time server, must be 18 years of age or older, able to work evenings. 705-286-1818 and ask for Wilson or email marksrestaurant@icloud.com.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – 2015 GMC Siera Single Cab, $8,000. certified. Utility Box with 2 side doors, shelves and locks. $1,000. firm. Call Ray at 705-306-4986 or 705-306-5202

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Swift Mattawa, asymmetrical, carbon fusion, maroon, outfitted for kneeling, sliding bow seat, two paddles, gently used, a dream. Do the research and call for Don at 705-754-9167. $2,000 firm.

FOR SALE – Spacious quality Condo in Haliburton. 2 beds, 2 baths, $635,000. For info call Drew Stan-iforth, Sales Representative, Remax Professionals North, Brokerage, 705-535-1689.

FOR SALE – Ontario Garlic & Scapes, Garlic & Scape Powders, Garlic Sauces, Spreads, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, SEED GARLIC. 1434 Kasha-gawigamog Lake Road, 2.2 km from County Road 21, Minden 705-286-1617

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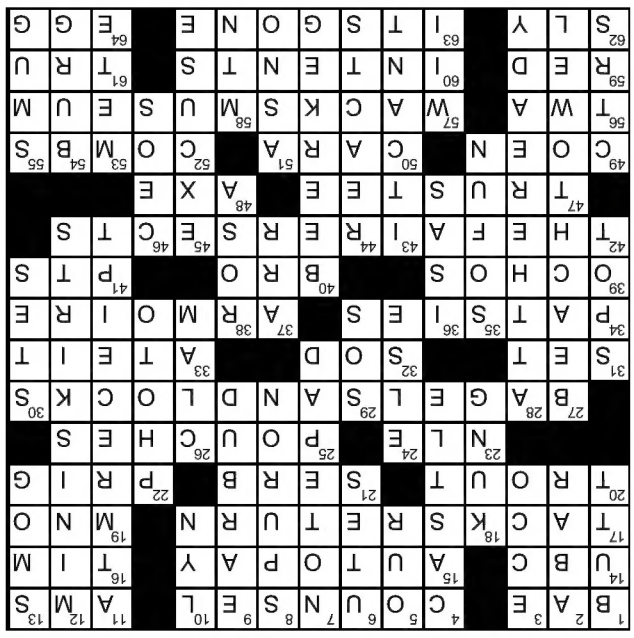

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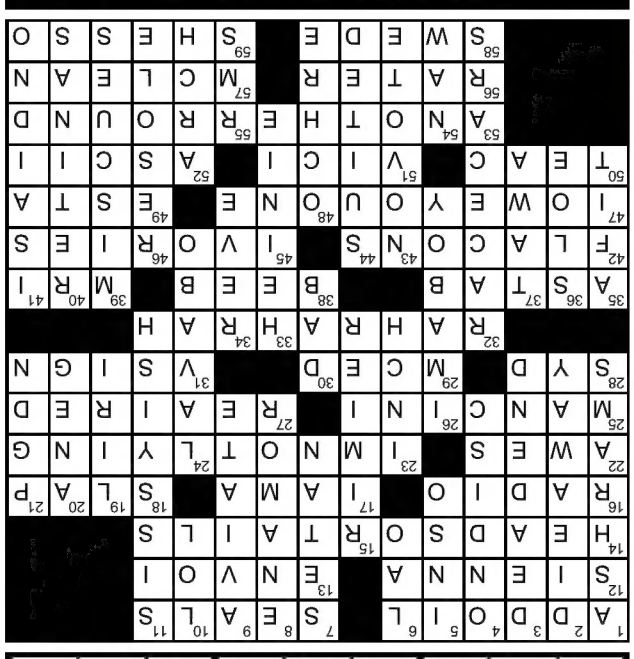
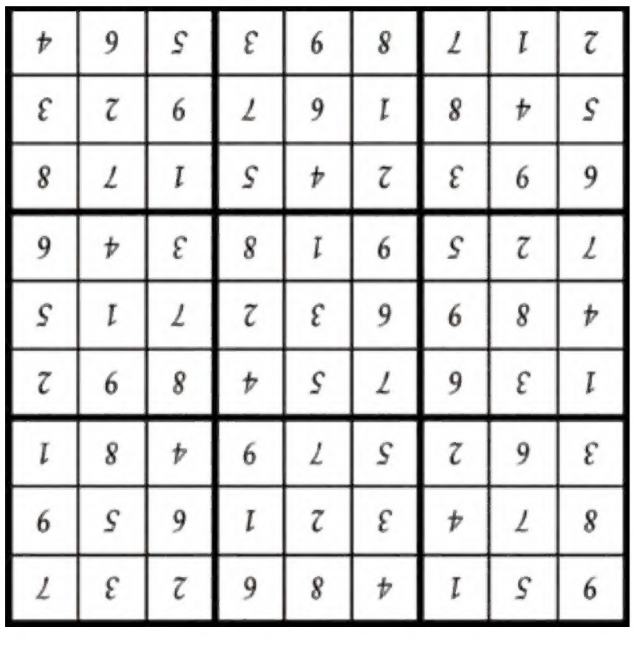
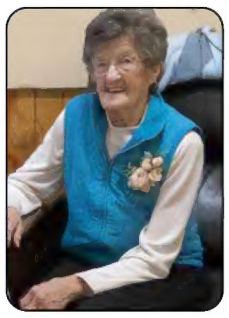




OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Mary Adele Stiver (nee Anderson)



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Stiver, peacefully July 15 in her 93rd year at Haliburton Extendicare.

Born Dec 18, 1933 Mary spent her life as a hardworking, compassionate and caring woman. She was well known in the Halls Lake Community where she became a beloved figure and too many "a true legend." Her strong work ethic, generous spirit and willingness to help others left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her. Mary had a special love of all animals and found joy in caring for them throughout her life. Many people will have fond memories, of visiting with the raccoons at the store.

Mary's story began, as an infant in Longford Mills, Ontario. As a toddler, the family moved to Milliken where they spend many years, growing up in the depression. Life was a struggle in their small home, but adventures with her sisters Alice and Flo made hard times bearable. Years later as a young adult, she discovered her true love,.. Haliburton County, while visiting Big Hawk Lake. She soon settled to Halls Lake, building a home, a store, and business with Gord Stiver on Little Hawk Lake Road.

Life Happens.....Mary found herself in Oshawa, a single mom with three kids. ... *Life Happens*... along came "Bake" Now in her forties, They relocated back to her previous home at Halls Lake. This brought about a new set of skills. Besides running the store, Mary got her AZ license, drove dump truck, bulldozer, backhoe, installing septic systems, and driveways, plowing snow, delivering firewood, and renting fish huts; working with Bake sun up to dusk.

Their home was an open door gathering place for workers, cottagers and family on their way north on Fridays, and anyone with a problem, breakdown or break-up showed up and was made welcome.

Besides work, Mary and Bake did enjoy life. Their camper van got lots of miles, travelling all over Ontario, to the east coast and back; often fishing along the way. Mary and her extended family saw much of Canada, the US and Scotland. Those trips created countless cherished memories and reflected her adventurous spirit and appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

In her late 60's Bake passed away, and his "*northern rose*" was now a widow. Her adventurous spirit, kept her going. She retired from the hard working and shifted her energy to helping in the community. Her support for the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Fighters was unwavering. Any event, fishing derby, Christmas party, fund raising , she was there. One of her highlights, was winning the 4 wheeler at the Fire fighters Poker run fund raiser.

Many community members were supported by Mary. A friendly visitor, driving countless people to appointments or events, or just being there when they needed someone or support.

Mary did not slow down. In her 80's she applied to the Stanhope Museum Council and served as a curator for several seasons. This brought new skill sets. Mary learned electronics! She took a course in technology, and became active on social media. Loving to find likeminded people with a love of animals she could "chat" with.

Sadly, dementia came along. In her mid 80's Mary life began to change again. She moved into Haliburton Extendicare, where she developed many new friendships, among the residents, like Don and Dianne and the staff.

Though she will be deeply missed, those who knew her will forever carry her spirit in their hearts.

Mary is survived by her children, Christine (Claudio) Kathy, and Danny. Very proud grandmother to Bradley (Wendy), Amanda, Katie, Becky (Terrell), Kimberly (Nic), Kevin (Ashlee) and Alyssa.

Great Grandmother, each of whom, brought her so much pride and happiness, Emma, Jace, Charlotte, Norah, Jaylyn, Camren, arriving soon, Amira, Loic, Brantley, and one more little one coming in January.

Mary was a big part of the Baker family including Bake's four children, Marie, Walter, Paul and Ritchie and their families, Mary was very fond of Don Stiver and his wife Pat. Mary is also survived by many nieces and nephews, who have many wonderful memories of times spent with her. She was predeceased by her twin sister Alice (Stu), sister Florence (Frank) niece Marylou, and great nephews Dylan and Jarrid.

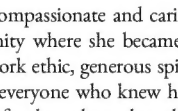
Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday Aug 15 at the Stanhope Community Centre. Open house, from 1pm to 4 pm with open mike at 2 pm. Please come and share some of the great stories with friends and family.

The family would like to thank the many community members for the kinds words, supports, hugs and prayers during this time. A very special thank you to the staff at Haliburton Extendicare for their wonderful care of Mary.

Continuing on with Mary's love of animals, donations to the "Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association would be appreciated. And a thanks to Jenn, for bringing Mary so much joy when the horses came to visit at Extendicare.

Mary's humour.... she would check the "obits" to see if she was there.... Mary you're finally here.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or follow us on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Granite View Condo, 4 Lake Ave. Beautiful 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, top floor, corner unit, providing stunning views of Head Lake. 5 minutes walk to the lakefront and town amenities. Open concept floor plan, one indoor parking space, storage locker, freshly painted. Radiant heating, hydro, water, and Stainless appliances. From $3,000. per month. Contact Dan at 705-455-7568 or e-mail to roxboroughdan@gmail.com

FOR RENT – Warehouse / Storage Space, located at 81 Mallard Road, Unit B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door. This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

FOR RENT

B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door. This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 9673 Hwy 35 (first driveway south of Miners' Bay Lodge) Saturday, July 25th from 8 a.m. Aluminum boat, canoe, CCM vintage bicycle, furniture, antique and collectible items, dishes, toys, books lemonade and freezies!

WANTED

WANTED – Old blue styrofoam billets. I use them to carve fish & animal bodies. Anything 2 feet or longer. Call Liz at 705-457-2471

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

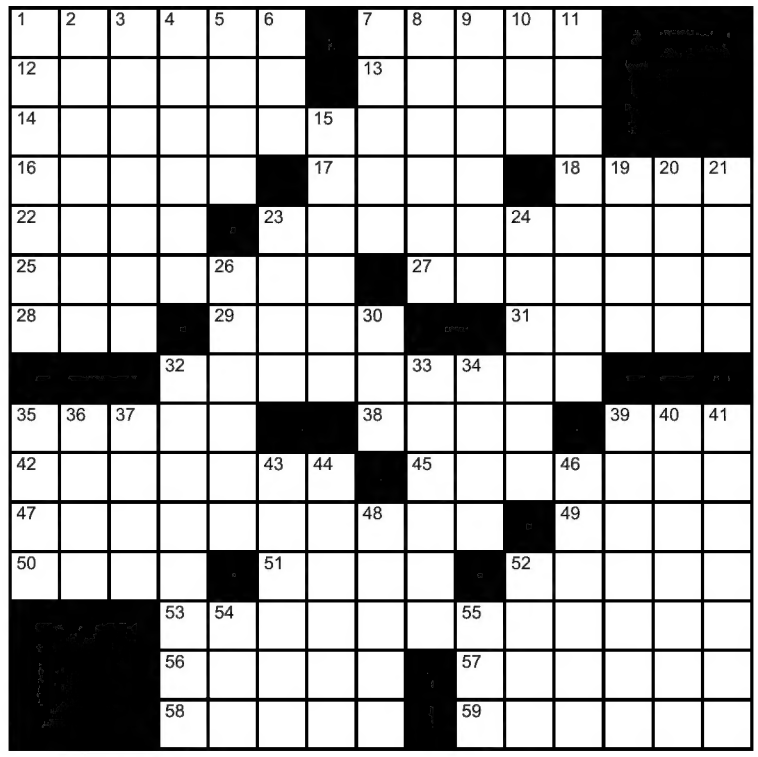
NOTICE

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

Highlander puzzles

Use Your Words

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Replenish with STP
7 Diploma stickers
12 Brown shade
13 Poetic wrap-up stanza
14 Choice words?
16 "Video Killed the ___ Star"
17 "___ Pizza" (Charlotte Diamond kids' song)
18 Apply hastily, with "on"
22 Really wows
23 Swear words?
25 "The Pink Panther Theme" composer
27 Like "The National" every hour
28 Barrett of Pink Floyd
29 Ran the show
31 Churchill's trademark gesture
32 Root words?
35 Take ___ at (try)
38 With "the," a network on the telly, informally
39 Test in a tube?
42 Delicate perfume bottles
45 "Tickled" keys
47 Loan words?
49 "Como ___ usted?"
50 Hi-end audio brand
51 End of Caesar's boast
52 Common computer code
53 Empty words?
56 One using the Tomatometer, e.g.
57 "American Pie" singer Don
58 Agnetha, Björn, Benny or Anni-Frid
59 Tal Bachman's "___ High"

Down

1 "Spiritual cleansing" retreats
2 Dwindle
3 Like many a mcjob
4 Safely backed up
5 "Not ___ many words"
6 A language of Thailand
7 ___ example (be influential)
8 Win over with charm, in the U.S.
9 Do the Wright thing?
10 "ur fny"
11 Far from macho
15 Having more hoarfrost
19 River of central Italy
20 "The universal platelet type"
21 Key for quick scrolling
23 Proceed slowly, with "along"
24 Wash basin used in mass
26 "Transgender Anthem" by The Who
30 Brylcreem quantity, in ads
32 Kids' hot wheels, e.g.
33 Keister
34 Dream, in Drummond
35 Have ___ (hit the roof)
36 Gin fizz fruit
37 "I did, I did ___ puddytat!"
39 Blows a pool shot
40 Eye parts with rods and cones
41 "Again, forget it!!"
43 Dissenting ballot
44 Was perfect for
46 Fix flats, in a way
48 Autumn colour
52 Lower back feature
54 "I reckon not"
55 House divs.

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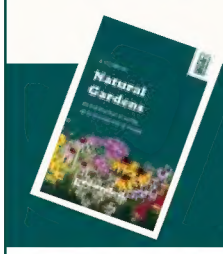

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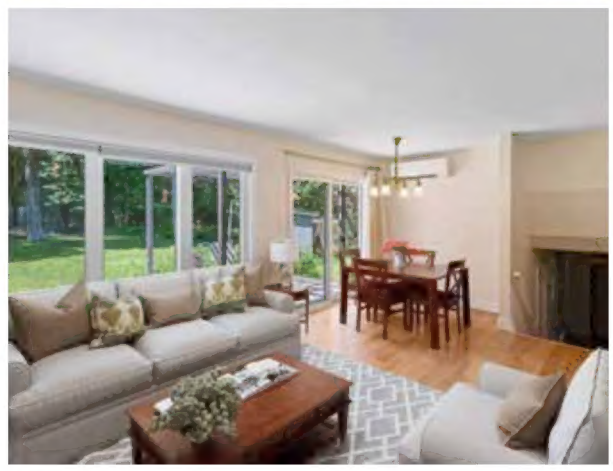

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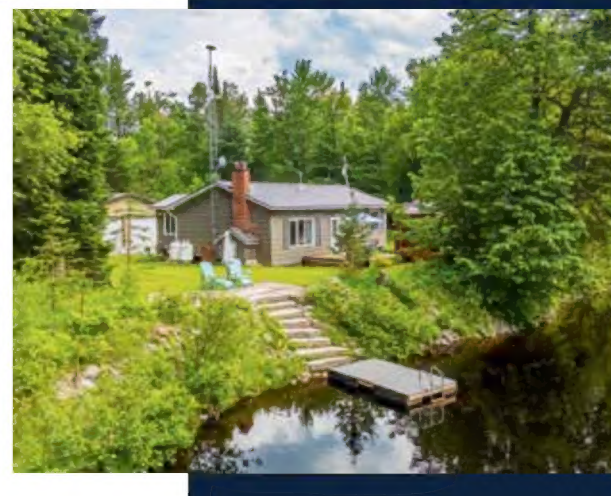

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